

# Kingswells Primary School Nursery Day Care of Children

Kingswells Avenue  
Kingswells  
Aberdeen  
AB15 8TG

Telephone: 01224 740262

**Type of inspection:**

Unannounced

**Completed on:**

10 September 2019

**Service provided by:**

Aberdeen City Council

**Service provider number:**

SP2003000349

**Service no:**

CS2003014438

## About the service

The service was previously registered with the Care Commission and transferred its registration to the Care Inspectorate on 1 April 2011.

Kingswells Primary School Nursery operates from areas within the primary school building, with its own entrance, situated in the Kingswells area of Aberdeen. The nursery is of open-plan design with kitchen area, toilets and changing facilities for children, storage as well as a fully enclosed outdoor space. Since the previous inspection the outdoor area has been upgraded with the addition of more natural resources and: 'Loose Parts' play and provides an interesting area where young children can explore and play at their own pace.

The service is registered to provide a care service to a maximum of 40 children at any one time, aged from three years to those not yet attending primary school. The service operates from Monday to Friday during term time and currently provides morning and afternoon sessions.

Included within the aims of the service was:

- "To create a happy, secure and stimulating environment for learning, working in partnership with parents/carers to support children's development and learning".

We carried out an unannounced inspection of the service on Tuesday 10 September 2019. One Inspector and a Practitioner Inspector from the Care Inspectorate visited the service. During the inspection we observed daily practice and talked with the majority of the children from both morning and afternoon sessions. We spoke with parents as well as the head teacher, deputy teacher and the nursery staff members. We observed staff practice and checked documentation relevant to the inspection. We gave feedback to the senior team and staff at the end of the inspection.

The Care Inspectorate check services are meeting the principles of 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (also known as GIRFEC); Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children by offering the right help at the right time from the right people. It supports them and their parent(s) to work with services that can help them.

There are eight wellbeing indicators at the heart of Getting it right for every child: safe; healthy; achieving; nurtured; active; respected; responsible; and included. They are often referred to as the SHANARRI indicators. We use these indicators at inspection, to assess how services are making a positive difference for children.

## What people told us

We talked informally with the children who were comfortable to talk with us during both sessions. We asked them if they liked coming to play at the nursery and they confirmed they did. Some children had recently started and were wary of the Inspectors. Children were happy and content, playing with the activities provided, We observed them enjoying their play and happy with staff.

Among the comments children made were:

- "I am making love hearts from play-dough for my Mummy"
- "I've made a birthday card for my Mum - it's got sparkles and shines. I think she will love it"
- "My best thing is building with the blocks"
- "I best thing is playing outside".

Throughout the day we observed the children as they played, explored and investigated with a range of activities and resources. Children were engrossed with their chosen activities and enjoying their play and learning. Children were relaxed and comfortable with the staff who in turn interacted positively and encouraged them to make friends with their peers and reassuring with the new children. There was a friendly, caring and fun atmosphere within the service.

We talked with 10 of the parents and carers during the inspection. Everyone said they were very happy with the service provided. They particularly liked the staff at describing them as: "super", "really nice, friendly and helpful" and "easy to talk to". Several told us that they had felt welcome and staff were good at keeping them informed with one describing the online interactive learning diaries. They thought the environment was safe and secure and liked that the children enjoyed going outside the grounds to the woods to play.

Parents told us: "children had a wide choice of activities to choose from". They thought the changes to the outdoor area was beneficial for the children. Their comments were passed on to the headteacher and staff during the feedback session.

We sent out 15 Care Standards Questionnaires to the service to give to parents and received seven questionnaires back. We emailed four parents who gave their email address and received two replies. We found that parents were very happy with the service and noted several written comments, two of which were:

- "Our child loves going to Kingswells Primary School's nursery, she feels safe and happy at our setting. The nursery's main asses is the staff, they are caring, friendly and enthusiastic".
- "The staff are always friendly and welcoming, and my child has always looked forward to nursery. I am given regular updates on what activities they have been doing and have planned. There are a variety of activities always available and the children are encouraged to play outside. I would highly recommend the nursery and all the staff members".

## Self assessment

The service was not asked to complete a self-assessment before the inspection. We looked at the service's audit systems and development plans during the inspection.

## From this inspection we graded this service as:

Quality of care and support	5 - Very Good
Quality of environment	not assessed
Quality of staffing	not assessed
Quality of management and leadership	5 - Very Good

## What the service does well

Children enjoyed spending time playing and learning at Kingswells Primary School Nursery being cared for by enthusiastic, warm and caring staff. Children could choose from a very good range of activities which were displayed on shelves for them to select independently both indoors and outdoors. We saw happy smiling faces and busy children enjoying their play.

Effective procedures were in place to safeguard children. The child protection policy provided clear guidance for staff. Staff were knowledgeable and had an understanding of their roles and responsibilities to protect children. Appropriate systems were in place for recording and reporting any concerns and staff were fully aware of the need for confidentiality. Staff attended child protection awareness training on a rolling-programme as part of their core training.

Staff had a good knowledge and understanding of the children's individual needs and used this knowledge to effectively support children. Staff put children's best interests first and regularly discussed specific and individual support required at the regular staff meetings. Staff were nurturing towards all the children and when asked could describe individual children's care needs confidently. Information was recorded within the care plans and we noted these were regularly reviewed.

Staff worked well as a team, ensuring children's needs were met and they were provided with a range of high quality learning experiences. We noted staff were suitably qualified to carry out their role and were registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The SSSC is responsible for registering people who work in social services and regulating their education and training. Staff were knowledgeable and competent and encouraged by the senior team to develop their skills and knowledge further. Core training included child protection awareness training first aid training, and food hygiene. They had attended a range of training and development opportunities aimed at improving the quality of children's experiences, for example: 'Planning in the Moment'.

We noted staff were very good role models for children with regards to behaviour and manners. We saw staff enjoying interacting with the children, listening to their news, and heard them ask for their opinions, and generally working with them in a friendly, caring manner. We saw staff join in children's play but equally they knew when to stand back and let the children explore at their leisure.

During brief interviews parents told us they were very happy with the service and liked that the children had opportunities to play outdoor with several mentioning the woodland sessions. 'Woodland Wednesday' was when staff took the children to the nearby woods and they enjoyed an outdoor session there.

Parents told us: "staff were helpful and friendly". We observed staff with parents and noted they welcomed them into the setting and treated them in a caring, respectful manner. Parents also thought the information sharing and updates were good and helped them work together.

We discussed planning and evaluation of children's learning and development, which staff had been reviewing and noted: 'Planning in the Moment' was now used. Staff liked the regime and had spent time becoming familiar with this. Planning was child-led with staff completing observations of children's learning and development, identifying next steps and how they would support children to achieve their potential, which staff described as: "work in progress". A good start had been made to this.

Children were supported to be healthy through daily opportunities to play outdoors - see also areas for development. We saw children were confident on the apparatus and competent at keeping themselves safe whilst outdoors. We noted an interesting and stimulating range of resources.

Children's nutritional needs were cared for with healthy snack provided. Snacks were happy, sociable times which encouraged children to develop their language and social skills. It was nice to see staff sit with children and offer help appropriately.

We found the service was well-managed with an ethos for improvement. The senior team monitored the service giving meaningful feedback to staff and encouraging them to make suggestions for improvement and provided support and guidance. We saw they used various methods to evaluate the service which included parents and the children.

Overall we found a very positive atmosphere within the service which children enjoyed and parents appreciated.

## What the service could do better

There were some areas we discussed during the feedback session that would enhance the quality of experience for the children:

- we agreed they would continue to action the points they had identified on their own nursery action plan.
- we discussed the need to ensure some care plans had more detail to ensure children's health needs were met.
- we asked them to look at the medication they held ensuring this was in line with current guidelines: 'The Management of Medication in Daycare and Childminding Services'.
- we discussed the need to ensure accident records were signed.
- we noted the door to the outside area was at times closed and children had to ask to go in and out; we discussed how they should look at this with a view to having the door open allowing children free-flow to choose to be indoors or outside.
- we agreed they should continue with reviewing the planning and evaluation regime and how both parents and children were involved with this. This would include how they observed the children and effectively monitored and planned for their learning and development needs.

## Requirements

Number of requirements: 0

## Recommendations

Number of recommendations: 0

## Complaints

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection. Details of any older upheld complaints are published at [www.careinspectorate.com](http://www.careinspectorate.com).

## What the service has done to meet any requirements we made at or since the last inspection

### Previous requirements

There are no outstanding requirements.

## What the service has done to meet any recommendations we made at or since the last inspection

### Previous recommendations

#### Recommendation 1

Staff should review planning to ensure that children's likes and knowledge is being captured as this will enable them to extend each child's learning and development accordingly. Consideration should also be given to involving children in evaluating their learning and development.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 5: quality of experience.

**This recommendation was made on 21 April 2016.**

#### Action taken on previous recommendation

'Planning in the Moment' regime has been introduced which staff were currently working on. We noted a very positive start had been made on this and staff were keen and enthusiastic about their role in planning and evaluating children's learning and development.

## Recommendation 2

Monitoring systems should be further developed to capture the quality of children's experiences.

National Care Standards early education and childcare up to the age of 16. Standard 14: a well-managed service

**This recommendation was made on 21 April 2016.**

### Action taken on previous recommendation

The service have introduced several new methods of monitoring the quality of the children's experiences. These included working on the electronic 'Interactive Learning Diary' system (ILD).

The introduction of the: 'Focused Observations' where they track children over a week to gain a better knowledge and understanding of their learning progress and needs. A 'Learning Wall' (information display) for parents.

Staff told us they were feeling confident with the new systems and that work was continuing on this.

## Inspection and grading history

Date	Type	Gradings
24 Feb 2016	Unannounced	Care and support 4 - Good Environment 4 - Good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 4 - Good
18 Dec 2012	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good
14 Jun 2010	Unannounced	Care and support 5 - Very good Environment 5 - Very good Staffing 5 - Very good Management and leadership 5 - Very good

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Care Inspectorate  
Compass House  
11 Riverside Drive  
Dundee  
DD1 4NY

[enquiries@careinspectorate.com](mailto:enquiries@careinspectorate.com)

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